

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02308 111600Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 /023 W

-----111602Z 024904 /50

R 111534Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2618  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2308

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 10-11

1. LEAD STORIES DEALT WITH MEETINGS PRES. ASAD HELD WITH ARAFAT AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EXCOMM APRIL 7 AND LEBANESE DRUZE DELEGATION LED BY MUHAMMAD ABU SHAKRA SHEIKH OF LEBANESE DRUZE APRIL 10. MEETING WITH ARAFAT AND EXCOMM MEMBERS REPORTEDLY LASTED FIVE HOURS AND HELD IN "ATMOSPHERE OF FULL FRATERNAL UNDERSTANDING." SHEIKH ABU SHAKRA THANKED ASAD FOR SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO RESCUE LEBANON. HE STATED THAT "HE SENSED IN ASAD TOTALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN ALL MATTERS DISCUSSED REGARDING LEBANON IN GENERAL AND DRUZE SECT IN PARTICULAR."

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02308 111600Z

2. MEDIA REPORTED APRIL 11 THAT JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WILL PAY THREE DAY VISIT TO SYRIA COMMENCING APRIL 12.

3. EDITORIALS CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON LEBANON. PRESS AGAIN HAMMERED AWAY AT NEED FOR REBUILDING LEBANESE ARMY,

IMPLEMENTING CAIRO ACCORDS, ENDING EXPLOITATION OF SOUTH LEBANON SINCE CONTINUED FIGHTING COULD ONLY BENEFIT ISRAEL, AND EXTENDING ALL SUPPORT POSSIBLE TO SARKIS. SENIOR BAATH COLUMNIST AMID AL-KHULI APRIL 11 WROTE, "PEACE NOW MEANS IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN ORDER INITIATE EXTENSIVE NATIONAL DIALOGUE WHICH WILL LAY SCIENTIFIC BASES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LEBANESE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. SINCE PRES. SARKIS IS LEGITIMATE AND PRACTICAL EMBODIMENT OF THIS PEACE AND SYMBOL OF THIS TYPE OF LEBANON, IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA BLESSES ANY EFFORT TO AID SARKIS." AL-KHULI WARNED FORCES COOPERATING WITH ISRAEL THAT: "THE LEBANESE SOUTH HAS ENTERED EXTREMELY GRAVE PHASE IN WHICH IT NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO PLAY IT AS CARD FOR POLITICAL BLACKMAIL SINCE IT WILL INEVITABLY BECOME CARD IN HANDS OF ZIONIST ENEMY TO PLAY AGAINST LEBANON AND ARABS AND HERE AGAINST HE WHO THINKS HE IS PLAYING IT TO HIS ADVANTAGE. DANGEROUS SOUTH CERTAINLY WILL BE USED, AS IT IS NOW, TO PREVENT IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT." AL-KHULI CONCLUDED: "SYRIA CANNOT STAND AS SPECTATOR TO ANY ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT COMPLICATIONS IN SOUTH TO BRING ABOUT STAGNATION."

4. EDITORIAL IN APRIL 10 AL-BAATH MORE EXPLICITLY FOCUSED ON WHO BEHIND PROBLEMS IN SOUTH BY CLAIMING, "STATEMENTS BY SOME LEBANESE POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS RECENTLY ON CAIRO AGREEMENT. IT CLEAR THAT THOSE STATEMENTS TRYING GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WHAT OCCURRING IN SOUTH IS LINKED TO CAIRO AGREEMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 02308 111600Z

AS IF THIS SITUATION CONSTITUTED A KIND OF PRESSURE TO INTERPRET THINGS IN WAY NOT HELPFUL TOWARDS RESOLVING PROBLEMS. ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN SOUTH CANNOT BE TOLERATED SINCE ISRAEL MOVING THERE IN VARIOUS FORMS IN BID TO IMPOSE FAIT ACCOMPLI." PELLETREAU

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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